

Robert Pitts was an outstanding man dedicated to family, faith, and country. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE  
JARED HUFFMAN HONORING  
MAYOR GARY PHILLIPS

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2020*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary Phillips as he retires a distinguished tenure of public service as Mayor of the City of San Rafael.

Mayor Phillips earned his undergraduate degree and Master of Business Administration from Humboldt State University. He applied his education throughout his professional career as a certified public accountant and business executive as well as an elected official. He and his wife Linda settled in San Rafael 48 years ago. They proceeded to raise a family and became committed to improving the quality of life for the residents of San Rafael.

Mayor Phillips' first role as an elected official for the San Rafael community was as a member of the former Dixie School Board, where he served for eight years, including twice as president. He was elected to the City Council in 1994 and served three terms before retiring in 2007. In 2011, he decided to run for Mayor when Mayor Al Boro retired after nearly 20 years of service. As an elected official, Mayor Phillips drew upon his business acumen, standing up for small businesses, working to improve education, and responding to the changing needs of the community.

Over the years, Mayor Phillips developed a deep record for going to bat for San Rafael residents, demonstrating steady leadership through trying times. This includes navigating financial challenges, homelessness and housing, securing funding to improve fire service, and the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. At every critical moment Mayor Phillips has worked to provide the people of San Rafael with the support and resources they need. He is also known at City Hall for his ability to form consensus and adhere to principles, and for his thoughtful, hands-on approach to leadership—invaluable qualities in a mayor.

It has been my pleasure to work closely with Mayor Phillips' on a number of key issues, including homelessness, gun violence reform, discrimination, and securing funds to dredge the San Rafael Canal. I have also had the pleasure of working with him in his role as Chair of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) to find solutions for rail and multimodal transportation through the downtown.

Mayor Gary Phillips has been an unwavering champion for his community across his nearly 30 years, and I am certain his public service is not complete. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in honoring him for his many positive contributions to the residents of San Rafael and the entire North Bay Area and in wishing him well in his next endeavors.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2020*

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not present for roll call votes on December 2, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 228.

IN HONOR OF DENNIS MCBRIDE

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis McBride as he leaves the Board of Education of the Redwood City Elementary School District after serving 17 years. This brief introduction of Dennis does not begin to do him justice.

Let me offer you the image of the Energizer Bunny, unceasingly banging on a drum and looking a bit cool at the same time. This is Dennis. Let me also acknowledge that this might be the only time that comments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD refer to a Certified Public Accountant as "cool." The word fits Dennis.

He began his love affair with education as a parent volunteer with the cooperative preschools in which his two children were students. He then hopped to the nearby elementary school where he became active in the site council and organized field trips, such as when he took a class to visit a leading computer manufacturer. He served on the site councils of every school attended by his two children. While some parents coach soccer, Dennis coached other parents and teachers in how to solve problems, raise funds, helped teachers, and did so much more. That's a drum-banging, cool dad.

As a CPA, Dennis volunteered his professional talents for numerous parcel tax and bond measures. The funds raised built classrooms throughout the elementary and high school districts and sustained the curriculum to the best degree possible despite economic circumstances. It is estimated that over 25,000 pre-K through eighth grade students, and additional high school and community college students, were benefitted by Dennis' work. In the buildings created, in the music programs sustained, in the special education students aided, and in dozens of other ways large and small, Dennis created a legacy that will last for at least two generations.

Dennis has always been unassuming in his collaborative ventures with other school district trustees from around the county, but many eventually made their way to Dennis as they sought answers to tough financial and personnel issues. For years he's been a leader within the San Mateo County School Boards Association, going so far as to find new leaders for recognition through the association's annual Kent Award.

How much energy does this man exude? Well, ask yourself, how many school district trustees visit nighttime staff to see how they are holding up? How many trustees show up in the morning at dangerous intersections to

witness what parents are worried about? How many trustees visit every school in the district, check out cafeterias, write handwritten thank you notes to teachers, staff and parents? Many would show up at school events when invited, but how many are known on campuses where middle schoolers call out their names? This is Redwood City's public servant, Dennis McBride.

Not content to contribute to his community solely through its schools, Dennis served as the treasurer or board member or both for multiple community organizations including the Police Activities League, the workforce housing committee of the school board, and on the board overseeing faculty/staff housing for the San Mateo County Community College District. He's also served on the education advisory committees of two members of the state legislature and as treasurer for the Sequoia Awards, a community scholarship program recognizing low income high school students with big college or technical education dreams.

Dennis McBride's contributions don't end with education. From 2006 to 2013, he served as treasurer for the Santa Clara University Law School Board of the Northern California Innocence Project and on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

In all those cartoonish ads for batteries, some of the other bunnies run out of juice but the Energizer Bunny keeps going. In contrast, I think even the Energizer Bunny would give up before Dennis McBride. It has been my privilege and honor to serve with Dennis. We are sorry to see him go, and so sad that his drum will not be beating for us again. We wish Dennis, his wife, Lori, and his sons Cory and Casey much happiness in the coming years.

Madam Speaker, a one-man band has now retired from public life, but the beat goes on because everyone wants to make Dennis proud as they follow his lead, his laughter, and his kind heart.

FROM HAARETZ: "ISRAEL'S WAR ON PALESTINIAN CHILDREN" BY GIDEON LEVY

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2020*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, when military force and violence are used to oppress, dehumanize, and deny fundamental human rights to an entire civilian population—women, men, and children—it is an injustice that is antithetical to America's values and our self-proclaimed belief in promoting dignity, equality, and justice for all. The Israeli military occupation of Palestine is such an injustice. Settlement expansion, home demolitions, the military detention of children and state sponsored violence are the weapons used as Israel seeks to annex Palestinian land and destroy any prospects for Palestinian self-determination.

The violence used by Israel against Palestinians, especially children, is shocking and abhorrent. Late last week a particularly grotesque act of state sponsored violence took place when a 13 year-old Palestinian boy living under military occupation in the West Bank

was shot in the abdomen by an Israeli soldier. The child, Ali Abu Aalya, later died.

According to a statement from the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, issued on December 4, 2020, "A 13 year-old Palestinian boy was shot and killed today in the West Bank in the State of Palestine. In the past two weeks, four other Palestinian children were shot and severely injured in the West Bank . . ."

The UNICEF statement continues, "From January to September this year, according to UN data to date, 232 incidents involving the injury of Palestinian children, some of whom sustained long-term damage. UNICEF urges Israeli authorities to fully respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of all children and refrain from using violence against children, in accordance with international law."

Such a rebuke from UNICEF, calling on Israel, a U.S. ally that receives \$3.8 billion in U.S. taxpayer funded military assistance, to "refrain from using violence against children" should make every Member of Congress and American citizen question whether U.S. military assistance is being used to injure and kill Palestinian children.

I strongly urge the incoming administration of President-Elect Biden to investigate Israel's killing of Ali Abu Aalya, as well as Israel's ongoing pattern of using state sponsored military violence against Palestinian children. Members of Congress and the American people deserve to know whether U.S. taxpayer funding to Israel's Ministry of Defense is being used directly or indirectly to facilitate or enable violence against Palestinian children. Committing human rights abuses with impunity and with U.S. taxpayer aid is intolerable and there must be accountability on the part of the U.S. Government.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 2407, Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act. The bill deems the military detention of children a gross human rights violation and prohibits U.S. aid to support, enable, or facilitate such abuse of children. The military detention of children is a systemic practice of the Government of Israel used against Palestinian children as a tactic that violates international humanitarian law in order to maintain a permanent military occupation of Palestinian lands. There are twenty-four courageous colleagues who have joined me as co-sponsors of H.R. 2407 and I am deeply appreciative of their commitment to defending human rights and the rights of children.

"Israel's War on Palestinian Children" was published on December 5th in the Israeli newspaper HAARETZ. In a column by Gideon Levy, the systemic brutality and violence inflicted on Palestinian children by the Government of Israel is described. Mr. Levy writes about his own country, Israel, this way: "What would you think of a regime that allows the shooting of children, that abducts them in their sleep and razes their schools? That's exactly what you must think of the regime here in our country."

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD Mr. Levy's powerfully honest column. I would like Members to read this column and answer Mr. Levy's question: What would you think of a government that allows the shooting of children?

[HAARETZ.com, Dec. 5, 2020]

ISRAEL'S WAR ON PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

(By Gideon Levy)

Last week, we were in the Al-Aroub refugee camp, searching for an open area in which to sit, for fear of the coronavirus. There wasn't one. In a camp in which house touches house, whose alleys are the width of a man and strewn with garbage, there's nowhere to sit outside. One can only dream of a garden or a bench; there isn't even a sidewalk. This is where Basel al-Badawi lives. A year ago, soldiers shot his brother dead, before his eyes, for no reason. Two weeks ago, Basel was snatched from his bed on a cold night and taken, barefoot, for questioning. We sat in his family's cramped home and realized there was no "out" to go to. While we were there, Israeli soldiers blocked the entrance to the camp, as they occasionally do, arbitrarily, and the sense of suffocation only grew.

This is Basel's world and this is his reality. He is 16, a bereaved brother, who was abducted from his bed in the dark of night by soldiers. He has nowhere to go to except for school, which is closed for part of the week due to COVID-19. Basel is free now, more fortunate than certain other children and teenagers. Around 170 of them are currently detained in Israel. Other children are shot by soldiers, wounded and sometimes killed, with no distinction made between children and adults—a Palestinian is a Palestinian—or between a life-threatening situation and a "public disturbance."

On Friday they killed Ali Abu Alia, a 13-year-old boy. It was a lethal shot to the abdomen. No one could remain indifferent to the sight of his innocent face in photographs, and his last picture—in a shroud, his face exposed, his eyes closed, as he was carried to burial in his village. Ali, as he did every week, went with his friends to demonstrate against the wild and violent outposts that sprouted out of the settlement of Kokhav Hashahar, taking over the remaining land of his village, al-Mughayir. There is nothing more just than the struggle of this village, there is nothing more heinous than the use of lethal force against protesters and there is no possibility that shooting Ali in the abdomen could have been justifiable. In Israel, of course, no one showed any interest over the weekend in the death of a child, one more child.

Up until the current school year, around 50 children from the herding community of Ras a-Tin studied at the school in al-Mughayir, the village of the deceased boy. They had to walk about 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) each day, round trip, to attend. This year their parents, with the help of a European Commission aid organization based in Italy, built them a modest, charming school in the village. Israel's Civil Administration is threatening to demolish it, and in the meantime it is harassing the pupils and teachers with surprise visits to check whether the toilets had been, God forbid, connected to a water pipe—in a village that was never connected to the power grid or the water supply. The children of Ras a-Tin must have known Ali, their former classmate, now dead.

The children did not know Malek Issa, of Isawiyah, in East Jerusalem. The 9-year-old boy lost an eye after it was hit by a sponge-tipped bullet fired by an Israeli police officer. On Thursday the Justice Ministry department that examines allegations of police misconduct announced that no one would be charged in the shooting, after 10 months of intensive investigation. It was enough for the policemen involved to claim that stones had been thrown at them, perhaps one of them hit the boy. But no video shows stones

being thrown, nor is there any other evidence of this. Ali's killers can also sleep in peace: No one will prosecute them. All they did was to kill a Palestinian child.

These and many other incidents are taking place during a period that is among the quietest in the West Bank. This is the terror taking place, committed by the state. When we hear of such incidents in vicious dictatorships—children who are snatched from their beds in the middle of the night, one boy who was shot in the eye, another who was shot and killed—it sends shivers down our spine. Shooting at demonstrators? At children? Where do such things happen? Not in some faraway land, but rather just an hour's drive from your home; not in some dark regime, but in the only democracy.

What would you think of a regime that allows the shooting of children, that abducts them in their sleep and razes their schools? That's exactly what you must think of the regime here in our country.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2020*

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to a test indicating a positive result for a COVID-19 infection during the most recent district work period, I was unable to travel to the Capitol to vote on December 4, 2020.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF BOYD GRANT

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2020*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a former Fresno State basketball coach, Mr. Boyd Grant, who passed away at the age of 87. He was a father, friend and one of the finest coaches in history.

Boyd, who grew up in the agricultural region of Idaho, had a love for basketball. He played for three seasons at Colorado State University as a guard, after transferring from Snow College in Utah. After college, he returned to his alma mater to serve as the assistant basketball coach, a position he held for nearly 12 years. In 1961, the teams coached by he and legendary Coach Jim Williams, won a conference championship and participated in four NCAA tournaments.

From 1972 to 1974, Mr. Grant served as an assistant coach at the University of Kentucky, before beginning his head coaching career at the College of Southern Idaho, a junior college that he led to a national championship a year later.

Boyd furthered his career by serving as a highly successful head coach at California State University, Fresno. During his tenure, he led the Bulldogs to three Western Athletic Conference championships, three NCAA Tournaments and the 1983 NIT Championship. He was inducted to the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993. He was also inducted into the